

Remarks

As an initial matter, the undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Lin for his insightful comments during a telephonic interview with the undersigned on December 13, 2007. During the interview, the pending claims, the outstanding Office Action, and claim amendments, including those included in this paper, were discussed.

Claim 1 has been amended without any intention of disclaiming equivalents thereof. Claims 11, 15, and 26-30 have been cancelled without prejudice to their subsequent reintroduction into this application or their introduction into a related application. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-25, 31-35, and 126-127, and 129-132 will be pending and under consideration.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 appears throughout the specification and claims as filed, for example, at page 5, lines 5-7, at page 11, lines 3-17, at page 12, lines 19-31, at page 32, lines 26-30, at page 106, lines 29-31, and in claim 1 of the application as originally filed. Applicants believe that the aforementioned amendments introduce no new matter. The outstanding issue and rejection are addressed in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Response to Status of the Claims

According to page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 11, 15, and 26-30 were withdrawn as being directed toward a nonelected invention. In order to promote prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 11, 15, and 26-30, rendering this issue moot.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

According to sections 3-5 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-25, 31-35, 126-127, and 129-132 presently stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph. Without acquiescing to this rejection but in order to promote prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 in accordance with the amendments discussed in the telephonic interview between Examiner Lin and the undersigned on December 13, 2007. Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments include the steps of claim 1 that were identified and

suggested in the Office Action and, accordingly, respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that, in the view of the above amendments and comments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is respectfully solicited. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions about this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall D. Morin", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: December 14, 2007
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